

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a connection path for a connection request in a communication network, comprising:

determining whether a connection path to a destination node of the communication network is stored in a second memory, wherein determining comprises determining whether the connection path conforms to transmission requirements of the connection request;

if the connection path is not stored in the second memory, determining the connection path based on network data stored in a first memory, the network data describing the communication network; ~~and~~

storing the connection path in the second memory; and

communicating path information corresponding to the connection path to network nodes that are part of the connection path in order to set up the connection path,

wherein determining the connection path comprises determining whether the connection path to the destination node conforms to the transmission requirements of the connection request.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the transmission requirements include one of a bandwidth requirement and a transmission rate requirement ~~further comprising:~~

~~determining whether the connection path is suitable;~~
~~wherein the connection path is considered to be suitable when the connection path leads from an originating node of the communication network to the destination node and specific transmission properties for data transmission to the destination node are met.~~

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising:
storing, in the second memory, a plurality of standard connection paths to network nodes of the communication network.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein a limited number of ~~determined~~ connection paths ~~may be~~ are stored in the second memory.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:
erasing a connection path stored longest in the second memory, when the limited number of connection paths are stored in the second memory and the connection path is to be stored in the second memory.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

erasing, from the second memory, a connection path used least when the limited number of connection paths are stored in the second memory and the connection path is to be stored in the second memory.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the limited number is variable.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
counting overflow cases, wherein an overflow case comprises a case where a connection path cannot be stored because of a lack of available memory storage; and
setting the limited number based on the number of overflow cases.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
raising the limited number for a specified period of time; and
resetting the limited number after the specified period of time.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 further comprising:
using a control unit in switching equipment to form a network node of the
communication network.

28. (Currently Amended) Switching equipment for determining a connection path for a connection request in a communication network, comprising:

a plurality of line units connected to terminal equipment or to other switching equipment;
a first memory for storing network data that describe the communication network;
a second memory for storing connection paths that connect the switching equipment to destination switching equipment on the communication network; and

a control unit that receives a the connection request inquiry via one of the line units for a connection to destination switching equipment and searches the second memory for a connection path to the destination switching equipment and, if a connection path is not found in the second memory, determines a connection path to the destination switching equipment based on the network data stored in the first memory and stores the connection path in the second memory, wherein determining the connection path comprises determining whether the connection path to the destination node conforms to transmission requirements of the connection request;

wherein the control unit, after finding the connection path in the second memory or determining the connection path based on the network data stored in the first memory, communicates information corresponding to the connection path via a corresponding line unit to further switching equipment that is part of the connection path in order to set up the connection path.

29. (Currently Amended) The switching equipment according to claim 28, further comprising:

a third memory for storing a plurality of connection paths to destination switching equipment,

wherein the control unit searches the third memory and ~~together with~~ the second memory for a connection path to the destination switching equipment.

30. (Previously Presented) The switching equipment according to claim 28, wherein the control unit monitors the connection paths stored in the second memory to restrict the connection paths to a limited number of connection paths.

31. (Previously Presented) The switching equipment according to claim 30, wherein the control unit erases a connection path stored longest in the second memory when the limited number of connection paths are stored in the second memory and the connection path is to be stored in the second memory.

32. (Currently Amended) The switching equipment according to claim 30, further comprising:

a counting unit for counting a number of times a connection path stored in the second memory is used for a connection setup to the destination switching equipment;

~~when~~ wherein the control unit erases a connection path that is used least when the limited number of connection paths are stored in the second memory and the connection path is to be stored in the second memory.

33. (Currently Amended) The switching equipment according to claim 30, further comprising a counting unit for counting a number of overflow cases in the second memory and for setting the limited number based on the number of overflow cases, wherein an overflow case comprises a case where a connection path cannot be stored because of a lack of available memory storage.

34. (Previously Presented) The switching equipment according to claim 30 wherein the control unit increases the limited number of connection paths stored in the second memory based on the number of overflow cases.

35. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein transmission requirements are user selected.

36. (New) The switching equipment of claim 28, wherein transmission requirements include one of a bandwidth requirement and a transmission rate requirement.

37. (New) The switching equipment of claim 18, wherein transmission requirements are user selected.